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# LANL Recovery Act News Flash

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## More Bang for the Cleanup Buck

Less than a year into Recovery Act-funded demolition at Technical Area 21, efficient contracting and waste management have resulted in significant savings that translate into funds available to demolish more buildings.

Competitive contracting and efficient waste segregation account for the bulk of the savings, which currently total \$2 million, a figure that may rise by as much as another \$4 million.

Gordon Dover, Recovery Act Projects Deputy Director, attributes the cost savings to aggressive waste segregation prior to building demolition, which decreases shipping costs, and competitive, fixed-price contracts, which provide contractors with a higher profit margin for efficient work.

The bulk of the savings, Dover said, comes from efficiency in separating waste during building demolition. By segregating more lower-cost industrial waste, the overall cost of waste disposal decreases.

"Shipping is a big cost," he said. "For example, Building 209 was classified in our baseline as all radioactive waste, but we knew if we could strip the building down before demolition two-thirds of it would be industrial waste."

The fees that waste disposal sites charge for industrial waste, called a tipping fee, is about one-tenth that of the tipping fee for low-level waste,



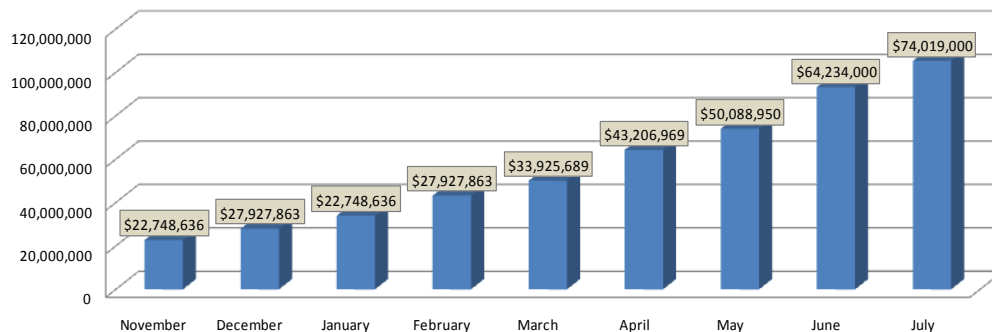
*Removing fixtures, machinery and piping prior to demolition allows for efficient waste segregation and significant cost savings.*

Dover said. The tipping fee for low-level waste is \$1,000 per cubic yard but only \$100 per cubic yard for industrial waste, resulting in significant cost savings that can be used for further environmental cleanup work.

Crews segregate waste by removing fixtures, machinery and piping prior to demolition. Clean metal, that is metal that is not contaminated, is removed and recycled. By the time a building is ready for demolition, as little waste as possible is going to waste disposal facilities.

"Aggressive waste segregation allows us to minimize our waste disposal costs," Dover said.

**LANL Recovery Act spending  
(running total)**





***“The addition of 125 more workers exceeds our job goals significantly.”—ARRA Executive Director Bruce Schappell***

This News Flash is provided by the Environmental Programs Directorate of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

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## Project hits hiring peak; exceeds job goals

The Technical Area 21 (TA-21) Recovery Act project will hit its hiring peak this summer when an additional 125 people are hired to work on an environmental remediation project at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The Lab received \$212 million in Recovery Act funds to decontaminate and decommission 21 old buildings at Technical Area 21 (TA-21), install 16 groundwater monitoring wells, and excavate the Lab's oldest waste disposal site, Material Disposal Area B (MDA-B).

Work began in July 2009. Currently, 11 of 21 buildings have been demolished and 12 of 16 groundwater monitoring wells are complete. The excavation of MDA-B, a waste disposal site used from 1944-48, began in late June, adding another 125 workers to the project and raising the tally of 'jobs created/saved' from 408 to more than 500.

“As work on MDA-B ramps up this summer, we will add 12 additional crews to our workforce,” said LANL Recovery Act Director Bruce Schappell. “We



*The Recovery Act project at TA-21 has created/saved more than 500 jobs, exceeding initial estimates.*

originally estimated that these projects would create or save 300-350 jobs, so the addition of 125 more workers exceeds our job goals significantly.”

Most of the Recovery Act work at TA-21 has been performed by four small business subcontractors. The subcontractors submit bids to perform specific tasks and provide the personnel to complete the work. Jobs range from engineers and project managers to laborers and truck drivers.

In addition to creating work for New Mexicans, the project will result in long-term environmental benefits for northern New Mexico. After it is cleaned up to residential standards, the six acres that comprise Material Disposal Area B and the nearly 100 acres of Technical Area 2 will be restored for potential land transfer and reuse.

“Putting people to work has a beneficial effect on families and communities,” Schappell said.

## Excavation begins on lab's oldest waste disposal site

Excavation began in late June on Material Disposal Area B (MDA-B), the Lab's oldest waste disposal site.

Used from 1944-48, MDA-B contains 3-7 ounces of plutonium, mainly dust on clothing and equipment, in 25,000 cubic yards of material spread out over six acres. When excavation is complete at the end of 2010, MDA-B will be cleaned up to residential standards, which means houses can be built on it, and will be eligible for land transfer and reuse.

To protect workers and the public, excavation will occur inside sturdy metal structures. The structures are equipped with a number of safety measures, including fire suppression and HEPA air filtering systems.

“MDA-B poses a number of challenges for the project team,” said Bruce Schappell, executive director for the Lab's Recovery Act environmental clean-up projects. “Because our main concern is safety, our plan accomplishes the environmental remediation objectives and minimizes the risk to the community and our workers.”



*The excavation of the Lab's oldest waste disposal site, Material Disposal Area B, began on June 24. The work is occurring inside sturdy metal structures. Two of the structures are moveable and will be moved as excavation progresses.*